TL 1230

tapol
The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW, UK
Telephone 081 771 2904, Fax 081 653 0322

Fax: 081-653 0322

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Luisa / CDPH

From: Carmel Budiardjo

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Comments/Message

We'll have to change the bit about the Parly mission.

Love Carmel

Fretilin flags fly in Dili

Schoolboys and girls at schools in Camer and Becora in the capital Dili raised the Fretilin flag and sang the Fretilin hymn, *Foho Ramelau*, on 17 July, the day which is supposed to be celebrated as 'integration day', when Suharto signed the bill fourteen years ago annexing East Timor, seven months after the all-out invasion. As far as we know, this is the first time flags have been raised in Dili as an act of defiance against the forces of occupation. The schoolchildren also shouted *Viva Fretilin* and other slogans calling for the Portuguese parliamentary mission to come to East Timor.

Troops and police soon arrived on the scene and ordered the schoolchildren to pull the flags down, but they refused to do so, saying they would remain aloft until sundown. Dozens of youngsters were then rounded up and taken away. Following intervention by the International Red Cross, all those detained except three were released.

Waiting for the Portuguese

Negotiations between Portugal and Indonesia for a parliamentary mission to visit East Timor have been going on for

Kapan Pulang, Bu? It is not difficult to imagine the answers they get. Indonesians there for a short stay may take it as a polite inquiry, but transmigrants or civil servants sent there for a longer period will recognise the hostility. The replies could be anything from "Huh? I've just arrived!" to *"Kurang ajar!"* (Cheeky brat!) Marching soldiers or police doing their morning calisthenics are also being challenged even though their replies are likely to be a slap in the face.

Intimidation squads

The Indonesian authorities have not yet found an answer to this campaign. No adults are involved and the movement is decentralised and spontaneous, with no leaders or organisers. Army intelligence has tried to disarm the youngsters by organising their own youth into street-gangs. Whenever Indonesians meet a group of East Timorese youngsters (whether involved in the *Kapan Pulang* campaign or not) insults and provocations begin to fly. In May and June, street fights between juveniles increased enormously. Thuggish-looking groups of young Moluccans and

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Negotiations between Portugal and Indonesia for a parliamentary mission to visit East Timor have been going on for years. After agreement was thought to have been reached that the mission would go in August or September this year, the Indonesians have now raised new problems about procedures, which may further delay the visit. Talks between the two sides are to take place in New York on 27 July; if final agreement is not reached soon, the visit will not take place this year as it cannot go after October when the rainy season starts.

Reports from East Timor suggest that the population is very eager for the mission to come. The political atmosphere is charged with expectancy, far more so than when the Pope was due to come. While Timorese are certain to use all possible means to impress upon the Portuguese the need for speedy action in favour of self-determination, anti-Portuguese rallies are also being planned by the Indonesians. Ultimately, the decisive factor for the army will be whether they feel they can prevent an outburst of pro-independence demonstrations in the presence of MPs from Lisbon and a large group of foreign journalists.

The *Kapan Pulang* campaign

Another campaign run by youngsters during the past few months, aimed at pestering all Indonesian intruders, military or civilian, is the *kapan pulang?* ('When are you going home?) campaign. Initiated by the underground student movement, the idea has spread like wildfire, with many people eager to take part. Kids as young as 6 years old are involved as well as youngsters up to their late teens. This is the same age-group as those participating in the Palestinian *intifada*.

No skills or weapons are needed to join in. Groups of youngsters roam in places where many Indonesians congregate, at the airport, in public offices, near garrisons or in the harbour, and innocently ask: *Kapan Pulang, Pak?* or *Kapan Pulang, Bu?* It is not difficult to imagine the answers they get. Indonesians there for a short stay may take it as a polite inquiry, but transmigrants or civil servants sent there for a longer period will recognise the hostility. The replies could be anything from "Huh? I've just arrived!" to *"Kurang ajar!"* (Cheeky brat!) Marching soldiers or police doing their morning calisthenics are also being challenged even though their replies are likely to be a slap in the face.

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The air of hostility has recently intensified, with the East Timorese now resorting to more violence. Military vehicles, civilian cars and motorbikes owned by Indonesians are the primary targets; car-owners who leave their vehicle unattended are likely to find the tyres slashed or the body dented. Armoured cars and personnel carriers are also frequent targets.

Street fighting is now widespread and usually takes place late in the evenings. People in the capital are afraid to go out at night, for fear of encountering organised Timorese gangs or Indonesian street thugs.